

REMARKS

Restrictions in the Office Action

The Office Action of January 18, 2007, interpreted the application as containing claims directed to the following patentably distinct inventions:

I: Group I: claims 1-6, 13-25 and 32-38, and

II: Group II: claims 7-12 and 26-31.

Response to Restriction Requirement

Applicant respectfully elects Group I (claims 1-6, 13-25 and 32-38), without traverse. To advance the prosecution of this application, Applicant has cancelled the non-elected claims 7-12 and 26-31.

Applicant does note, however, that the MPEP requires that no such election or restriction be required, when the application can be searched and examined without undue burden on the Examiner. Applicant believes that all claims 1-38 can be so examined in this application. Applicant understands that, by making this restriction, the Examiner acknowledges that any prior art used to reject the elected group will not be used to reject claims of other groups in any ensuing divisional application, because any such rejection would be tantamount to an admission that the examination of those claims could proceed with the current claims, with no undue burden to the Examiner.

If the Examiner disagrees with this position, then the Examiner should not enter the above amendment (canceling claims 7-12 and 26-31), and instead fully examine all claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing is fully responsive to the election request and that all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this submission. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 50-0835.

Respectfully submitted,

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